

A
TOUCH ON THE TIMES;

OR,
OBSERVATIONS ON MR. PAINE'S LETTER
TO

MR. SECRETARY DUNDAS;
SET FORTH IN THE FOLLOWING DIALOGUE.

The Speakers.

SECRETARY DUNDAS.

MR. PAINE.

PLACE-MEN AND PENSIONERS.

THE COMMUNITY.

THE COURT, &c. &c.

To which is added, by way of Appendix,

A
P A R A P H R A S E
ON THE
SIXTH CHAPTER OF DANIEL;

WITH PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS, REMARKS, &c.

By JAMES MAXWELL, POET IN PAISLEY.

PRINTED IN THE PRESENT YEAR.

ROUGH ON THE THUMB

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TOUCH OF THE TIMES, &c.

DUNDAS.

- 1 **W**HAT is the matter THOMAS PAINE;
 That you against us so complain,
 About our Constitution?
 You say, 'tis altogether wrong;
 (Tho' we have borne with you too long)
 We take this resolution,
- 2 To stop the clamours of the Nation,
 We publish this our Proclamation,
 Lest they grow turbulent:
 We therefore must do what we can
 To stop your Books, call'd "Rights of Man,"
 Such evils to prevent.
- 3 The people have continu'd quiet,
 Altho' they bore so great a weight
 Of taxes we must own:
 But since they've seen your publications,
 They grumble hard thro' all our Nations,
 And on us sourly frown.

PAINE.

- 4 You have no cause my books to blame,
 But to yourselves you may take shame,
 For your wild management:
 Then wherefore quarrel ye with me
 I nought have writ but truth you see,
 Yet are you discontent,

- 5 I challenge not your Proclamation,
 But cannot brook your explanation,
 That points it all at me :
 For in your Proclamation all,
 There's not a word doth on me fall,
 I'm innocent and free.
- 6 There's not an Author yet extent,
 That wrote on civil government,
 More innocent than I :
 Therefore, tho' all your clam'rous gang,
 Have rais'd against me such harangue,
 Their malice I defy.
- 7 Your Mandate points at none but those,
 Who truth and honesty oppose,
 Seditious and profane :
 But no such thing is found in mine,
 Truth thro' the whole transparent shine,
 All falsehood I disdain.
- 8 Examine all my Rights of Man,
 And then disprove them if you can,
 Or point out ought that's vicious :
 Your Place men all I can defy,
 And Pensioners whene'er they try,
 To point out what's seditious.
- 9 But when they make an explanation,
 Of your ambiguous Proclamation,
 They find out what's not there :
 They make it speak what's not exprest,
 Such vicious juggling I detest,
 'Tis far from just or fair.

PLACE-MEN, PENSIONERS, &c.

10 Be not so bold now, THOMAS PAINE,
Against hereditary reign,

You dare so boldly fight:
Yet notwithstanding all you've said,
To stand our ground we're not afraid,
To prove that it is right.

11 Without this none would laws obey,
But each become another's prey,
No justice would take place:
The strong would then o'ercome the weak,
And each for law their wills would make,
Soon this would be the case.

12 If all would do as you advise,
All would against their Rulers rise,
And breed a sad confusion.
Now if this way they were inclin'd,
Before the end they sure would find,
Paine. They were in mad delusion.

13 You wrong me sore, if you surmise,
That I the people would advise
Rebellious arms to take:
'Tis only you who prompt them so,
Like jaded horse his load to throw,
For fear his back should break.

14 If Governments were truly wise,
To see where their true interest lies,
They never would oppress:
Nor umbrage to their subjects give,
When they had much ado to live,
And were in sore distress.

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 They never would oppress:
 Nor umbrage to their subjects give,
 When they had much ado to live,
 And were in sore distress.

- 15 Nor wantonly their money spend,
 With tax on tax still without end,
 This genders discontent.
 Then when of hope they're quite bereft,
 They see no way for them is left,
 But try some new event.
- 16 Altho' the subjects love their King,
 When those about him wear a sting,
 That galls them to their hearts :
 It raises grief and discontent,
 Which proves a dangerous event,
 Rebellion oit it starts.
- 17 Kings oftentimes are ignorant,
 And know not what their subjects want,
 Altho' in deep distress,
 While those about them have their ear,
 And none beside can them come near,
 T' inform them more or less.
- 18 As for hereditary reign,
 What I have said I will maintain,
 'Tis altogether mad :
 Have not one age as just a cause,
 To fix upon their present laws,
 As their forefathers had ?
- 19 What if hereditary right,
 Upon a knave or fool should light ?
 'Tis no uncommon case :
 Must he sustain the sov'reign rule,
 However rogue, however fool,
 Devoid of ev'ry grace ?

I therefore will sustain the word,
This doctrine is the most absurd,
Of any that can be :
If our forefathers have us fixt,
To have no power to chuse the next,
We're bound to miserie.

Therefore your accusations I
Disdain, and all your pow'rs defy,
Whoe'er dare me accuse :
I will maintain, by reason's might,
That ev'ry age enjoy this right.
Their rulers whom to chuse.

And if such rulers should transgress
The laws then made, and them oppress,
(Tho' regularly chose ;)
'Tis not their duty to obey,
And yield to his imperious sway,
But wholly him depose.

And this is law, I will maintain,
That whatsoever King shall reign,
He's subject to the laws ;
Ev'n to the laws that then were made,
When first they chose him for their head,
This is a righteous cause.

THE COMMUNITY.

We most sincerely love our King, and
And would obey in every thing
That's equitably just :
But when his counsellors persuade
him on our nat'ral rights t' invade,
This to refuse we must.

- 25 But some about him wear such stings,
 That such affliction on us brings,
 As pierce us to the heart :
 The poison thereof taints our blood,
 Tho' by the King not understood,
 But we sustain the smart.
- 26 Nor can we ever this forget,
 How we are sunk so deep in debt,
 This is a thing most grievous :
 Now we must labour night and day,
 The interest of this debt to pay,
 Of this who can relieve us ?
- 27 Nor only interest must we pay,
 But other burdens day by day,
 Are always on us falling :
 For ev'ry thing is tax'd so high,
 This makes the poor aloud to cry,
 Our very hearts are galling.
- 28 They prompt our King to go to war,
 Against his neighbours near or far,
 That they may be the gainers ;
 They heed not which side gain the day,
 The country must the music pay,
 Such are their constant manners,
- 29 We can't forget America,
 Which did so many millions draw,
 To keep a needless war up :
 Devoid of justice as of sense,
 To sink us in such vast expence,
 Above the breeches far up.

- 30 And what got we to quit the cost ?
 Above half of the empire lost,
 With thousands of our lives :
 Fathers and sons so many slain,
 But few returned home again,
 To cheer their mourning wives.
- 31 Can We such fatal steps forget,
 That sunk us in such dreadful debt,
 To our great shame and loss ?
 Now, tho' we labour night and day,
 This fatal debt we ne'er can pay,
 Which they have brought on us.
- 32 And yet this troubles none of them,
 They always play a winning game.
 The country pays for all :
 They make us pay for infant breath,
 And after we expire in death,
 They for fresh taxes call.
- 33 And can we rest or be content,
 And not our tears with sorrow vent,
 To think how we are used ?
 While Pensioners with sinecures
 Can ride in triumph with their w——s.
 Thus are the poor abused.
- 34 Again when freakes come in their head,
 To hostile arms straight they proceed ;
 Our men away are prest :
 They raise some foolish false alarms,
 To get the country put in arms,
 They never let us rest.

- 35 'Tis but a year or two ago,
 None can forget, but all must know,
 Our men were prest to sea;
 When Russia had almost subdu'd
 The Turks, their folly then they shew'd,
 They could not silent be.
- 36 Then they began their false alarms,
 The country must be put in arms,
 To keep the Russians down;
 And then new taxes must be rais'd,
 We thought their heads were surely craz'd,
 The like was never known.
- 37 But soon their heads grew cool again,
 Soon as the vapours left their brain,
 The men were all sent back:
 But what a charge we thus were at,
 Let ev'ry one consider that,
 They'll not have cause to crack.
- 38 Our merchant ships could not set out,
 Their tars were scatter'd all about,
 And forc'd to hide the head:
 And tho' they were again set free,
 They were afraid to go to sea,
 Such jealousy it bred:
- 39 For they had been but just before,
 With such a freak we're troubled sore,
 They had not that forgot:
 Nor was this all the fatal loss,
 That by such actions fell on us,
 So wretched is our lot.

- 40 Whene'er the Court takes such a dance,
 We for the music must advance
 A sum to pay for all :
 Whatever blunder they may make,
 The country's forc'd to pay the stake,
 All on our heads must fall.
- 41 Yea, lo, our heart within us faints,
 To recollect our sore complaints,
 They are so great and num'rous :
 Besides, if we should utter all,
 Upon us they would loudly call,
 And say we're pert and hum'rous.
- 42 Yea, they have rais'd such false alarms,
 As if we would take hostile arms,
 Against our gracious King :
 But they may banish all such fears,
 Whatever tales have reach'd their ears,
 We aim at no such thing.
- 43 Tho' they have made a Proclamation,
 Which yet hath giv'n more occasion,
 Amidst our deep distress :
 But we despise so vain a plan,
 To quarrel at the Rights of Man,
 And printing to suppress.
- 44 Tho' many hypocrites have sent
 Thanks to the King on this event,
 And giv'n him flatt'ring praise ;
 Not one in ten we may believe,
 Meant ought thereby but to deceive,
 By base fallacious phrase

- 45 For almost all in these three nations,
 Despise such foolish proclamations,
 And call them weak and vain :
 This will not answer their intent,
 But prove a quite reverse event,
 This all may see most plain.
- 46 The Slave-trade too that is prolong'd,
 The kingdom thinks itself much wrong'd,
 By this inhuman deed :
 It raises also jealousy,
 That most of us soon slaves must be,
 It seems almost decreed.
- 47 But most of us resolve to die,
 Rather than live in slavery,
 This is our fixt intent.
 If thus the Court their course hold on,
 They'll soon have subjects few or none,
 Whate'er may be th' event,
- 48 We pity much our gracious King,
 For they have got him in a string,
 To lead him quite blindfold :
 He knows not that their main design.
 Is to engross his noble coin,
 And finger all his gold.
- 49 Then if this course they're let pursue,
 Soon farewell King and Country too,
 'Twill come to foul disgrace :
 They flatter him with specious lies,
 And cheat him with a false disguise,
 To get or keep their place.

50 Another grievance we present,
Which fills us all with discontent,
And makes our hearts to burn ;
That pensioners and place-men bold,
A seat in Parliament should hold :
This makes the country mouru.

51 Judges and legislators too,
Should have no self int'rested view,
To bias them at all.
But uprightly decide each cause,
According to the present laws,
Nor favour great or small.

52 Another cause of discontent,
Is that concerning Parliament,
They want a regulation :
That all might represented be,
According to their just degree,
Of men throughout the nation.

53 And that each man should have a vote,
However poor or rich, if not
Disqualified by nature ;
Or have himself disqualified,
By his misdeeds, and set aside,
As an obnoxious creature.

54 But all of honest good report,
Altho' they be of fortune short,
That ought to be no let ;
If they be fit to serve the King,
In any kind of lawful thing,
Aside should not be set.

- 55 For ev'n the poorest that can be,
Are never from taxation free,
All pay toward the State;
And therefore have a right to vote
For representatives, why not?
'Tis just, without debate.
- 56 Again, Why should not ev'ry place.
Be represented in this case,
As they in numbers be?
Why should one Shire a fourth the Tweed,
In Representatives exceed
All on the North pray see?
- 57 Have we not Shires and Boroughs more,
And men in numbers in great store,
Yea more than ten to one?
Is this not inequality,
In numbers to a vast degree?
Let this be thought upon.
- 58 Besides Electors here so few.
One of a thousand have not due,
To give their vote at all.
Yea, many men of large estates,
The present law of right defeats:
Who can this justice call?

THE COURT.

- 59 We've heard, with patience, your complaint,
And how your spirits almost faint,
But who can you believe?
You surely know not when you're well,
And therefore threaten to rebel,
That we may you relieve.

60 But all your threatenings are in vain,
 You have no reason to complain,
 You never were so well.
 You flow in wealth. and sit at ease,
 Yet nothing can afford you ease,
 But hasten to rebel.

61 But vain is all your discontent,
 'Twill never make our hearts relent,
 To pity your sad case :
 Your long complaints we will not hear,
 Nor to petitions bend our ear.
 Our honours to disgrace.

COMMUNITY.

62 You quite mistake if you surmise,
 We mean with rebel arms to rise,
 We aim at no such thing :
 But you the kingdom may destroy,
 And fill the King with sad annoy,
 And to distress him bring.

63 When subjects all from him are gone,
 But sycophants around his throne,
 You'll say'rites be no more :
 Your pomp and pride will then come down,
 The King will then upon you frown
 And kick you out o' door.

64 Consider this whate'er you do,
 For surely you will find it true,
 If you your course hold on :
 Above half you have drove away,
 The rest, perhaps, may not long stay,
 But quickly may be gone.

65 Like Rehoboam, who turn'd his ear
From aged men, the youths to hear,
Which prov'd to his sad cost :
His subjects most from him withdrew,
And left him but a very few,
Ten out of twelve were lost.

66 But after all, we should be glad,
Could peace and liberty be had,
On equitable terms :
'Tis not disturbances to raise,
We make such just complaints as these,
Nor raise up false alarms.

66 Let peace and liberty still reign
In Britain, and just laws maintain,
And then let none offend ;
But let all ranks united stand,
To guard the bulwarks of the land,
For ever without end.

DANIEL IN THE LION'S DEN:

OR,

A PARAPHRASE ON THE VITH. CHAPTER OF DANIEL:

Wherein is set forth, the Danger of Kings hearkening to
Parasitical Court-Dressers, and false hearted flattering
Counsellors.

WITH PRACTICAL REMARKS AND OBSERVATIONS.

DARIUS, King of Persia (great and good)
Soon as he had that monstrous wretch subdu'd,
Namely Belsazar, king of Babylon,
Whom Heav'n had foreordained to dethrone;
And whom Darius opportunely slew
At his blasphemous feast, with all his crew:
By Heav'n's decree, all in one night were slain,
Both he and all that did to him pertain:
And all his spacious empire ta'en at once,
Not by a blind and incidental chance;
But by the wise decree of Sov'reign Heav'n,
And to Darius by donation giv'n.

Now all is peace—great Babylon subdu'd,
And great Darius whole possessor stood.
Great was his empire—most extensive large,
And now to manage this his mighty charge,
He sixscore princes fixt throughout his land
To gather in his tribute by command.
And over these he chus'd three Presidents,
To audit their accompts of all his rents.

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That so by fraud he might no loss sustain,
 Nor give his subjects reason to complain
 And of these three, Daniel was chosen chief,
 Which fill'd the rest with jealousy and grief.
 Thus Daniel was chief fav'rite of the King,
 Which gave the others hearts a grievous sting:
 For in his hand no fraudulence was found,
 But all his actions and his judgment sound.
 For, lo, a spirit of integrity
 Was found in him, ev'n to the last degree.
 The King had thoughts of setting him o'er all,
 While all the rest were plotting his downfall.
 But all their malice could not find a vent,
 Whereby they could him wholly circumvent.
 Because he was so prudent and so wise
 All was in vain whate'er they could devise.
 But Satan put it in their cursed brain,
 How they their cruel purpose might obtain.
 "No way (said he) you'll get howe'er you plod,
 Unless it be concerning of his God.
 But I'll advise you to one certain thing,
 Which will him soon to dire destruction bring.
 Persuade the King to make a firm decree,
 That by his signet must confirmed be,
 That no man shall, however great or small,
 Either dare pray to God or man at all,
 Or ask petitions, but of thee, O King,
 For thirty days; this will thee honour bring.
 And now if any man this law transgress,
 In any shape, however more or less,

Shall straight be thrown into the lion's den,
 And let them quite devour such rebel men.
 And now, O King Darius, live for ever !
 Let this decree be sign'd, but alter'd never,
 According to the Medes and Persians laws
 That alter not, whate'er may be the cause.
 The princes and the presidents have join'd,
 All as one man to have this edict sign'd.
 In honour of our sov'reign lord sublime,
 And have agreed upon the certain time.
 Now therefore let it be confirm'd by thee,
 In honour of thy glorious Majesty."

The simple King, not seeing their disguise,
 How they were cheating him with specious lies,
 (For Daniel tho' the chiefest president,
 Knew nothing of their wicked base intent.)
 The King (unwary of their curs'd design)
 Consented straight their black decree to sign.
 'Tis done ! and now they thought they soon should get
 Daniel intangled in their hellish net.

Now Daniel quickly knew the writ was sign'd,
 Yet did it not disturb his peaceful mind !
 He went into his house as heretofore,
 And pray'd, and did the God of Heav'n adore—
 His windows open'd tow'rd Jerusalem,
 His native city, whence he captive came.
 He kneel'd upon his knees three times a-day,
 And to his God did most devoutly pray.
 And thank'd him with high uplifted hands,
 Undaunted by his enemies commands ;

As he was wont to do in former time,
Raising his voice with elegance sublime.

Then lo, these lords assembled quick and found
Brave Daniel praying with a solemn sound.

And making supplication to his God,
Unaw'd by all his foes, who thirsted for his blood.

Then they came near, and spake before the King,
Informing him of such enormous thing.

They spake and said, before the King thus free,

“Hast thou not made and signed this decree,

That no man shall petition, plead or pray

To any god or man, by night or day,

For thirty days, save to thyself alone,

Who art the King supreme upon the throne,

And whoso shall this law of thine transgress,

His punishment should not be more or less

Than to be cast into the lion's den,

To be devour'd by beasts, and not by men?”

Then answered the poor deluded King,

“’Tis true indeed ; it is a certain thing,

According to the Medes and Persians laws,

Which changeth not whatever be the cause.”

Then boldly they rejoin'd before the King,

“Now have we proof, this is a certain thing,

That this same Daniel, who from Judah came

A captive bound out of Jerusalem ;

Yet he regards not thee, nor keeps thy laws,

Nor fears thy gods : obnoxious is his cause.

He prays to his own God three times a day,

Regardless of thy laws—scorns to obey.”

Now when the King heard this their loud complaint,
 His very heart within began to faint !
 Now with himself he forely was displeas'd,
 Nor knew he how to get his spirit eas'd :
 For still on Daniel fixed was his heart,
 Which fill'd his mind with most tormenting smart !
 How to deliver him all ways he try'd,
 And labour'd hard until the ev'ning tide !
 But how to save him, yet no way he found,
 This gave his heart a most afflictive wound !

Then, lo, these men assembled—came again,
 Which made his labours altogether vain.
 And still to make his heart with sorrow bleed,
 The strictness of the law aloud they plead.
 “ Know this, O King ! it cannot be forgot,
 The laws of Medes and Persians alter not.
 Nor can a written statute or decree,
 When it is made, O King ! and sign'd by thee,
 Can it be changed in the least degree.” }

Then lo, the King consented, and they brought
 The victim forth, whose blood so fierce they fought :
 Then plung'd they Daniel in the lion's den ;
 O how afflicted was the Monarch then !
 On the den's mouth then laid they one great stone,
 And every one set then his seal thereon.

But, lo, the King, said, Daniel, cease to fear,
 Thy God will surely thy petitions hear.
 Him whom thou dost so faithfully still serve,
 He from the lions will thy life preserve.

Now all the lords had set thereto their seal,
 And all their bosoms seem'd great joy to feel ;

Thinking how well succeeded had their plan,
 Since they had vanquish'd this abhorred man :
 For now they thought they had him most secure,
 The lions quickly would his flesh devour ;
 For they had fasted them sometime before,
 That they most eagerly might drink his gore.

But to his palace went the King that night,
 Fasting and grieved at the doleful sight !
 No mirth nor music was before him brought,
 He pass'd the night in vexing anxious thought.
 No sleep nor slumber clos'd his wakeful eyes,
 But all the night was spent in heavy sighs.
 Then early in the morning he arose,
 And to the lion's den in haste he goes :
 Then cried, O Daniel ! with a piteous cry,
 Thou servant of the Lord of Hosts on high !
 Is thy God able to deliver thee,
 And from the lion's jaws to keep thee free ?

Then Daniel said, O King ! live thou for ever,
 And let this miracle forgot be never !
 The Lord my God hath here his angel sent,
 For my relief the lions to prevent,
 And shut their mouths ; they have no power on me,
 Nor have they hurt me in the least degree !
 For as much as no evil hath he seen
 In me, O King ! I innocent have been
 Before my God ; and in thy sight, O King !
 Thou know'st I have deserv'd no evil thing.

Then was the King uplifted so with joy,
 It banish'd from him quickly all annoy.

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His Daniel he embrac'd with open arms !
 Soon as he was brought out devoid of harms !
 For he was taken up with utmost haste
 And by the King most heartily embrac'd !
 And not the smallest hurt on him was found,
 But all his body and his clothes were found !

But, ah, what thought these lords of this event ?
 Their very hearts within were like to rent :
 But how much more, when by the King's command,
 They ev'ry one were ta'en and brought to hand
 What could they think or say ? now they're accus'd,
 How they had spotless innocence abus'd !
 Now were they taken at the King's demand,
 And every one bound fast, both foot and hand !
 And altogether to the lions thrown,
 Who tore their flesh, and crush'd their ev'ry bone !
 Before they reach'd the bottom of the den,
 Not one remain'd alive of all these men !
 Nor only so, but wives and children too,
 They ev'ry one unto the lions threw :
 Yea, ev'ry one who Daniel had accus'd,
 And by whose calumny he was abus'd.
 This was their fate, the lions ate them all,
 And brake the bones of both the great and small.

Now though the lions had before a fast,
 They got a chearful ample feast at last.
 Yea, such a feast they never had before,
 For they were glutt'd full with human gore.
 Enough to serve them now for many days,
 They would not need their bawling cries to raise.

Now was the King Darius overjoy'd,
 Then all his scribes he presently employ'd,
 To write unto all nations, far and near,
 That they the name of Daniel's God should fear
 Of ev'ry language, and of ev'ry tongue,
 All that unto the human race belong.
 What friendly salutations, free of pride,
 Wishing all peace to them be multiplied.
 And now I make and publish this decree,
 Through my dominions wheresoe'er they be:
 That all men fear and tremble at the name
 Of Daniel's God, who is the God supreme.
 For he's the living God, whose kingdom shall
 Be everlasting, and be over all.
 It shall for ever stand, without an end,
 But shall from age to age eternally extend!
 He rescueth from death: he doth deliver,
 And signs and wonders worketh he for ever
 In heav'n and earth, and none can him withstand,
 Nor change the word of his divine command.
 He saved Daniel in the lion's den,
 Who was accus'd by cruel wicked men.
 And made the lions all his foes devour,
 Tho' over him he granted them no pow'r.
 So Daniel prosper'd in Darius' reign,
 And in the reign of Cyrus, two brave men;
 Till he at last was so advanc'd in age,
 His God saw fit to call him off the stage—
 Transporting him to everlasting joy,
 Where none on earth or hell can him annoy.

PRACTICAL REMARKS *and* OBSERVATIONS *on*
the foregoing HISTORICAL CHAPTER.

THE first Remark we here intend to make,
 Shall be of Kings, who oftentimes mistake,
 And chuse a set of base designing men,
 Thinking them honest, tho' not one in ten
 Prove so when tried ; for here we plainly see,
 Among an hundred Peers and twenty-three,
 Yet out of these was found but only one,
 Who prov'd an honest, true and upright man.
 And him the rest abhor'd, with cruel spite,
 And plotted all to have him ruin'd quite :
 For when no fraud was found in him, their strife
 Was all united to destroy his life.
 And had it not been God's omniscient eye,
 That did the secrets of their hearts descry ;
 They had accomplish'd their malignant plot,
 And all his innocence had been forgot.
 So when the wicked 'gainst the righteous strive,
 That they may them of liberty deprive :
 God makes the snares which they for others set,
 Become their own : they fall in their own net.

Again we see, or may behold with shame,
 How we ourselves debase the Christian name,
 Darius was a heathen, yet we see,
 He was a man of great integrity.
 But few among our Christian Kings we find,
 Of such a pure and uncorrupted mind.

Altho' he was deceiv'd by flatt'ring lords,
 Who cheated him with fair deceitful words :
 Yet when he found them out, he spar'd them not,
 But made them fall by their own hellish plot.

And where find we such gen'rous sympathy,
 Shewn to a man of sound integrity,
 When he for innocence was like to die ?
 And when he saw the pow'rsul hand of God,
 How zealously he spread his praise abroad ?
 Where shall we find among our Christian Kings,
 One that has done such noble, God-like things ?
 Yet of the light of scripture wholly void,
 And but the light of nature he enjoy'd.
 This shames us all, who bear the Christian name,
 And renders us obnoxiously of blame.

Our present British King, 'tis true we find,
 Hath always shewn an honest upright mind ;
 Yet is he so by flatt'ring men deceiv'd,
 His subjects are most grievously enslav'd.
 Tho' this to him is very little known,
 Because of those that are about his throne.
 These have his ear ; all others are debarr'd,
 This makes the greatest number think it hard,
 That no access they to his ear can find,
 By speech or letters to disclose their mind.
 Strong barriers are the Place-men him around,
 To few beside access to him are found.
 These rule the kingdom almost as they please,
 Rais'd by the people's spoil they live at ease.

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And can the people live contentedly,
 While thus expos'd to constant slavery?
 So many drones impoverish all the hive,
 The honey bees are hardly kept alive.

And yet if they complain they're threaten'd fore,
 To be by process ruin'd out of door;
 For evil counsellors have mov'd the King,
 To do a very weak improper thing.

Like those in Daniel's days, who caus'd Darius
 To publish a decree the most impious;
 Whereby the Prophet and the simple King,
 They did almost to final ruin bring.

So these likewise, without the least occasion,
 Have caus'd our King to sign a Proclamation,
 Which they had form'd with bold ambitious views
 That so they might the innocent accuse.

But all their fabrication was in vain,
 Till they gave it another foolish strain,
 And made it speak what it doth not contain.

It only speaks of libellers seditious,
 And such as publish pamphlets false and vicious;
 But they have given it another strain,
 To make it speak against the WORKS of PAINE.

And such is their false overstraining plan,
 To make it speak against the RIGHTS of MAN.
 If this had been within their Proclamation,
 'Twould have been to mankind abomination,
 But this they durst not do, nor go so far,
 For it would then have been declaring war.

Against mankind, all that of Adam came,
Of ev'ry nation, and of every name.

This would have been a task for them to do,
For they must mean all mankind to subdue—
Suppress their rights, and make them all submit
To whatsoever bondage they thought fit.

This none can do but that Almighty Lord,
Who spake them all to being with a word.

At best 'twas but a needless Proclamation,
But most absurd by their mad explanation.

If we must neither print, sell, buy nor read,
The Rights of Man, this is a law indeed !

Such as was never made since Adam's days,
Nor will be kept while man on earth here stays.

If all mankind must yield to these few lords,
They surely must have most prodigious swords !

Yet notwithstanding, this vain Proclamation,
Hath made a noise thro' Britain's ev'ry nation ;

And hath been by all men of sense despis'd,
Nor need ye be at this event surpriz'd,

That many thousands have addrestes sign'd,
To thank the King, for this his care so kind :

For hypocrites abound in ev'ry age,

Since men have liv'd upon this earthly stage.

And such we may believe were most of those,

Who such addrestes sign, and such compose.

But wise and sober men of ev'ry station,

Who speak their minds about this Proclamation,

Altho' they speak with rev'rence and respect,

They say, 'twill have quite the reverse effect,

To what it seem'd at first design'd to have,
 And but the way to more disturbance pave.
 Yea, it may prove like that same mad decree,
 The Persians made : this many yet may see.
 We plainly see their mad malignant plan,
 Was to destroy one faithful honest man ;
 But in the snare fell they themselves at last,
 When in the den of lions all were cast.

And may this be the fatal fate of those
 Who did such plan unto the King propose.
 May lordly pensioners and placemen too,
 Have bitter cause their foolish plan to rue.
 Such things have been, and yet again may be,
 And this perhaps we in short time may see.
 They think they're safe while yet they loll at ease,
 And on the nation's spoil feast as they please.
 But time will come when they can feast no more,
 But must relinquish their ill gotten store.
 And this perhaps, may be their fatal case,
 Before they die, then die in foul disgrace.
 Their offspring whom they thought to raise to fame,
 Perhaps may die in poverty and shame.
 And may this be the fate of all such then,
 Who waste the spoils of poor and honest men.
 And such we have great numbers at this day,
 Who make the poor and honest all their prey.
 May Heav'n illuminate our Sovereign's eyes,
 That he may no more soisted be with lies.

If Christian Kings and servants under them,
 Had ought in them deserving of that name ;

They never would wish to increase their store,
 By overburdening the humble poor.
 Nor would they sinccares keep in reserve,
 For idle drones their purposes to serve.
 Nor grant such pensions to the spendthrift crew,
 Who by extravagance their wealth run thro':
 No, they would make them bear a lower sail,
 Or else be overfet with ev'ry gale.
 Nor should we hear of thousands by the year,
 Granted to such as did an office bear.
 Nor would they wantonly with neighbours jar,
 And presently declare a needless war;
 'To spend their peoples blood and treasure too,
 Which is the plan they frequently pursue.
 Thus they the country needlessly molest,
 'Then from their families the men are prest.
 And in a while disbanded and sent home,
 Then frequently they vagabonds become.

Such is the custom of the present times,
 Which fills the country full of noxious crimes.
 For being press'd away against their will,
 Does them with many vicious habits fill.
 They hate to work again: they cannot starve,
 Then from the ways of virtue oft they swerve.
 If all these things get not a new reform,
 We must expect to meet a dreadful storm.

Yet is our Court still deaf to all our cries,
 And all our sore complaints they still despise.
 This shews that we are Christians but by name,
 And nothing else to prove our sacred claim.

The very heathens shame us to the face,
 Which ought to fill us all with deep disgrace.
 If not they will at last against us rise,
 And fill us all with horror and surprize.
 For by the light of nature they are led,
 More in the paths of equity to tread ;
 Than we, who have the scriptures for our guide
 Which we have arrogantly laid aside.
 They stand a fairer chance by far than we,
 To be the fav'rites of the Deity :
 At least their punishment will sure be less
 Than ours, who wilfully 'gainst light transgress.
 For we have laid aside the Christian rule,
 And Christ's authority we ridicule.
 While we the sacred rule which he hath set
 Entirely lay aside, and quite forget.
 Namely, to do to all men as we would
 That they should do to us *. Then pray where could
 A more conspicuous rule to men appear,
 Than this which Christ hath set before us here ?
 While this we disregard, 'tis plain we do
 To Christianity quite bid adieu ;
 And chuse the doctrine of the Sadducees,
 Which from the fear of future judgment frees :
 And then those who this doctrine free embrace,
 Put off the fear of God—despise his grace,
 And then they think they nothing have to fear :
 For they in judgment think they'll not appear ;
 But sleep for ever in the silent grave,
 And neither hope nor fear at all they have.

* Matth. viii. 12.

This is a principle that seems to reign
 In many of this age ; but, ah, in vain
 They strive to banish reason from their breast,
 But that it will at intervals molest ;
 And speak sometimes when it is not desir'd,
 To shew it is not totally expir'd.

But thirst for wealth, for honour, and for pow'r,
 Does ev'ry virtuous principle devour :
 Those once obtain'd, then dissipation next,
 Is in the bosom of their owner fixt.
 From bad to worse they day by day proceed,
 And vices fast as summer insects breed—
 Debauch the females—drink to mad excess,
 And all their vassals more and more oppress.
 Then wild ambition prompts their views afar,
 To enter on some bold offensive war.
 To rob, to murder, plunder, and destroy,
 They all the forces they can raise employ.
 What blood and treasure is expended so,
 They neither fear nor care a fig to know.
 Their poor distressed subjects pay for all,
 With sore oppression it on them must fall.
 Mean time they and their creatures rest at ease—
 Waste and destroy whate'er their palates please.
 This is a specimen of government,
 But, ah, who can the fatal course prevent !
 If gracious Heav'n do not his grace dispense,
 And cause a reformation here commence.



